

## \*\*\*\*\* THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN \*\*\*\*\*

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ISSUE # 6

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## N O R T H      A M E R I C A N      N E W S

REPORT FROM N6XQ: Jack Henry N6XQ (CA DM12) sends along the following letter:  
 "Just a note to let you know I will be on from the tip of Baja on April 2, 3, 4 & 5. The grids activated will be DL42, DL43, DL52 and DL53 under the callsign XE2/N6XQ. The equipment will be 100 watts to a 7.5 dB yagi. I am vacationing and will be checking out different hill tops in the various grids. I don't know if you got the word about the equipment N6CA and I sent to the South Pole station - it was returned. Our point of contact there who is not licensed said the ham that was enthusiastic to activate the 6M gear lost his enthusiasm. How many times have we heard this same story?"

QSL INFO: Jack Henry N6XQ, Box 7732, San Diego, California 92167-0732

REPORT FROM W5FFF: Fred Fish W5FFF (NM DM64) sends along the following letter:  
 "Finally some DX here! On February 2nd 6W1QC was worked for country #116. February 9th through the 23rd was quiet other than the usual KH6/KL7 openings and a marginal QSO with ZL1ANJ. On the 24th I worked VK5BC at 0002Z and VK4BRG at 0052Z with good signals. The 25th brought OA8ABT and on the 26th at 0240Z, I had my first LU contact this year with LU8MBL. This QSO was followed by XE1GRR at 0300Z and CE3BFZ at 0307Z. Lee K5FF received a very nice plaque from the Guayaquil Radio Club for being the first station to work five call areas on 6M in Ecuador. Her contacts included: K4ERO/HC1, HC2FG, HC2GE/4, HC1MD/5, and HC8GR."

REPORT FROM W3EP/1: Emil Pocock W3EP/1 (CT FN31) sends along the following report:

"Enclosed is an abstract of my DX log for the past winter season. It might be a bit ordinary for your readers, but it's based on some consistent listening. I actually enjoy reading about what others have been working - especially stations on the East Coast. I do not mind the comparison...or the frustration of what I missed! I am working on (yet another) QST article concerning 50 MHz MUF and solar geophysical indices. There has been a flurry of speculative discussion concerning the inconsistencies between flux, A-index, and predicted MUF - at least as observed at 50 MHz. This is a worthwhile question to pursue, but it requires some good log data. Do you know of East Coast or European stations that have logs, based on consistent listening over many months, they might be willing to share? (Can anyone help?....KA3B). I want to focus on the trans-Atlantic path, as there are a great number of stations and beacons on both sides."

**W3EP/1 (FN31) REPORT ON F2 PROPAGATION TO EUROPE, AFRICA, AND SOUTH AMERICA: WINTER 1990-91 SEASON**

The winter 1990-91 season was not as good as the previous year, but even so this was not a bad showing! New countries added: OZ and PYØ. I was able to listen most mornings, but apparently missed a great opening to South Africa on October 23rd. As many have been reporting, there seems to be little consistent correlation between flux, A-index, and MUF. Many days with 200+ flux and low A-index went by with no sign of 6 meter DX. I hope more reports will clarify this.

QSL INFO: Emil Pocock W3EP/1, 625 Exeter Road, Lebanon, Connecticut 06249

DATE	U T C	FLUX	A-INDEX	STATIONS/COUNTRIES WORKED
OCT 21	1500	187	9	9L1US heard
	1355-1430	163	10	PZ1AP, HK3AVR
NOV 2	1400	140	10	PYØFF heard
	1425-1500	156	2	HC, J7, TI heard
10	1330-1405	193	10	F, G, GI, GU
	1255-1615	197	9	G, GW, F, EI, I, GI, GM
17	1510-1530	223	13	TI, HC
	1620-1630			F
18	1430	203	10	HC5K heard
	1430-1440	176	3	6W heard
DEC 1	1340-1355	203	4	G, GI, GM
	1355-1425	218	12	G, GI
6	1325-1415+	228	7	G, F, PA, ON, GU
	1340-1440	226	4	G, GI, GW, ON; SM heard 1615
8	1325-1650	230	7	G, GI, GM, DL; OZ, OE heard
	1330-1620	235	6	G, F, GI, ON, GM, PA, OZ, F; OY, LA heard
17	1340-1350	200	5	F
	1615-1645	192	5	PA, DL
JAN 28	1330-1455	327	2	F, G, GI
	1305-1350	353	3	GW, GI, G, GM
30	1240-1445	367	3	G, OZ, OH, PA, LA, EI; DL, OE heard
	1300	357	14	PZ, FY7 heard
	1335-1405			OZ, LA

## N O R T H      A M E R I C A N      N E W S

**QSL HELP!!!!:** First off, I would like to thank those of you who promptly returned your North American Needed Countries survey forms. Once most of the stragglers are received, I will tabulate the figures and present the results in the Bulletin (possibly in the next issue). Looking over these forms, a surprising number of you are having difficulties securing confirmations for 6M contacts. The countries most frequently cited for QSL problems were Guatemala (TG), Dominican Republic (HI), and Cuba (CO). The following stations require help in securing confirmations:

**WA5QCP:** Rich Kennedy states that he is having a terrible time getting HI confirmed. He worked HI8W at 1543Z on 1-1-90 and HI8PM at 1644Z on 2-27-90. Both stations were QSL'ed twice - once with IRC's and once with green stamps, and he still hasn't received a card. Rich's friend, N5BJG, is also having problems with these stations.

**N6XQ:** Jack Henry also needs help obtaining a card from HI8W.

**WB0V:** Harold Sullivan needs help obtaining a card from HI8W and CO2JA.

**K0GJX:** Chuck Munce needs help obtaining a card from TG9KJ.

**1991 DAYTON HAMVENTION VHF/UHF PROGRAM:** The VHF/UHF Forum at this year's Dayton Hamvention will begin at 9:00 AM in Room #5 of the Hara Arena. The moderator will be Joe Burke WA8OGS. Unfortunately (for the hard-core 6M enthusiast), there is only one session which would be of interest. This is the talk which will be given by Jim Everly K8IKE on "Sunspots and Geomagnetic Storms." All other sessions will cover subject matter relating to EME, 2.3 and 3.4 GHz, and the 220 MHz situation. The date for the VHF/UHF Forum is Saturday, April 27th.

**HP1XSO PANAMA:** This station has been reported working into South America lately on 6M. His QSL information is given as Box 842, Clayton, Panama. The 1991 Callbook shows HP1XSO as: Serafin Martinez, Box 1486, APO Miami, Florida 34001. More info when I receive it.

## S O U T H      A M E R I C A N      N E W S

**REPORT FROM KB6SL/CE3:** Kevin Szot KB6SL/CE3 sends along the following report:

"On February 23rd beginning at 2242Z until 0045Z, I worked over 200 JA's in all call areas except JD1 and JR6. We then had TE beginning 0200Z which apparently extended north through an Es link-up. After hearing the Oklahoma beacon on 50.075, I worked N0LL and W0CY. Other stations were heard calling me in CW but XE1GRR was on 50.110 working LU's on FM!!! He was so strong (S9+40dB) that he completely blocked 50.100 - 50.120 MHz. By the time he had faded, so had everybody else. At 2:30 AM local time, the WD7Z beacon among others was being copied. In spite of constant calling, no one was worked. Since 10 meters had closed, I was unable to alert the folks stateside. On weekends, especially, be on the lookout for me late - we often have TE most evenings from 0100-0500+ (Feb-Apr and Sep-Dec), so try turning those beams south. A little E-skip and those futher north might make it into the TE. I think that most of the guys have their beams pointed west or think that the band is dead by that time.

This ties into "The Darkest Hours" from Volume 2, Issue 3. You'll see that my comments echo those regarding propagation at the 35° latitude. CE3 is 34° South. Daytime propagation is extremely rare and usually to LU. However, once the sun sets, the band turns on. Although we have KH6 early (2100), normally the band opens to Southern Europe right before sunset. The path distance rapidly shortens from 9H1 (a pipeline to us!), CU1, CT, etc, to PYØ and quickly to PY before swinging north to the Caribbean by 0100+. After that, anything can happen from here (even Africa!), though propagation normally comes from the North/Northwest (TE which sometime extends to W4, southern W5/W6) and then maybe F2 to Japan anytime from 2200-0430.

Santiago, Chile has "elevator music" stations 24 hours a day on 47.900 and 47.835 MHz, wide-band FM. These can serve as beacons. Indeed, NI6E/KH6 began tracking them after I informed him of their existence, receiving 47.900 frequently. I am noticing that portable phones are often audible between 50.0 and 50.2 MHz, some local, though when the band opens they can be received in Portuguese (Brazil?....or Brazilians in Santiago?) and from Asia as well.

On a final note regarding XQØX, the boat to San Ambrosio has been delayed from Valparaiso due to technical problems. As of February 24th, the boat still had not left. This may cause the 6 meter group some worry, but John, XQØX is even more worried as he needs to restock on food, gas, etc. He's probably getting tired of eating lobsters!"

**XQØX SAN FELIX:** In addition to the above information, Shel NI6E/KH6 reports that on board the ship which will re-stock supplies for XQØX, is a 6M rig. Also on board is a Cushcraft A50-5 5 element beam and a roll of coax which has been loaned by KB6SL/CE3. XQØX is said to monitor 7038 kHz daily from 0100Z (for those who speak Spanish and live in countries which allow SSB on 7038 kHz).

**HC2FG BEACON:** HC2FG advises that he expects to have his beacon back on the air very soon....possibly by the time this reaches print.

**ZP5AA BEACON:** Doug ZP6XDW reports that the ZP5AA beacon should be on the air by the time this Bulletin reaches readers' hands. A location has been selected (a repeater site only 10 minutes drive from Doug), and a vertical antenna has been ordered from Argentina.

**VENEZUELA BEACON UPDATE:** The YV5ZZ beacon is still being reported on 50.043 MHz, while the YV4AB beacon is now being reported on 50.025 MHz. Hopefully this will not turn out to be zero beat with the ZP5AA beacon!

**CP/KA3B BOLIVIAN DX-PEDITION UPDATE:** My planned DXpedition to Santa Cruz, Bolivia is a few short weeks away. I have spoken with Glen CP6BY and just about all questions have been answered and plans finalized. Initially I was planning to depart Philly on March 29th (Good Friday). Due to a short vacation Glen has planned with his family, I should be arriving in Bolivia on April 1st (a few days later). My trip will last approximately 7-10 days. Unfortunately, I will only be operational for one full weekend instead of the planned two. Any last-minute information and/or updates will appear in issue #7, which hopefully will be mailed out around March 28th or 29th.

## E U R O P E A N      N E W S

**4U1ITU:** Dave Court G3SDL activated 4U1ITU on 50.155 MHz on the evenings of March 8th and 9th. If you were lucky enough to work Dave, QSL via: D.I. Court, 98 Andover Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 8BN

**GOTLAND EXPEDITION:** The Grid Ghosts, in fine spirit, will be going to Gotland (J096) from June 7-10, 1991. Callsign will be SM7NM/1 and they will use 50.165 MHz, using split if necessary.

**QSL INFO:** Grid Ghosts, c/o Bo Nilsson, V. Grevie 22, S-23594 Vellinge, Sweden

**SARDINIA (ISØ):** Enrico IK2GSO informed Ted G4UPS that he will be spending his summer holidays on Sant'Antioco Island (JM48 & JM49) using the callsign IK2GSO/IMØ. Dates will be given later.

**CU1EZ AZORES:** Ted G4UPS reports that a 160 watt linear amplifier is on its way to CU1EZ, donated by kind JA stations.

**SWEDISH UPDATE:** Swedish amateurs are obliged to submit bi-annual reports to their PTT. Arne SM7AED reports that between March and August 1990 the members of the SM7 Group: SM7FJE, SM7CMV, SM7AED, SM7SCJ, SM7JUQ, SM7LXV, and SM7FMX notched 47% of all the SM QSO's in that period. Arne also indicates that there will be a MS contest sometime in August 1991 during the Perseids.

**SK6SIX BEACON:** Ted G4UPS reports that a new beacon (SK6SIX) became operational in early February, the first beacon in Sweden. Its frequency is 50.080 MHz running 10 watts ERP to a vertical antenna at 35m ASL. The grid locator is J057TQ. (I still need to know who the custodian is....TNX, KA3B)

**REPORT FROM GJ4ICD:** Geoff Brown GJ4ICD sends along the following report:

"Early February started off really great with my 100th DXCC Country being worked. Stratwarm was in operation all month long, yet we had some fantastic openings into VK, DU, VS6, V73, and JA all being worked or heard. Long gone are the days of a few years ago when G3CCH worked into LU and created a British Isles distance record. We all thought it was not possible, but it seems that even on the backside of Cycle 22, the records keep being broken. If my computer program is correct, then VK3OT (QF120G) to GJ4ICD (IN89WF) is a massive 16,974 kms (ZL next?). The ZS path looks like it will open up here anytime, as ZS6WB has already heard me on 6M this month and the ZS5SIX beacon on 50.321 has been heard a few times in February.

TL8MB (FD1JKK) was reported by me going to Chad (TT), but as you can see by the callsign change he never got there. However, he is doing a fantastic job with very big pile-ups and a very consistent signal here in Jersey.

The consistency of the DU stations was a little puzzling to say the least. KG6UH/DU1 was very, very strong - in fact, strong enough to break the S9+20dB TV from Russia! The Southeast/South/Southwest path has also been very good. Arabic phones are heard from time to time around 1000Z, just as the Far East path dies. The Central African path is excellent at the moment. On February 24th, TL8MB was heard for 3 hours at strengths up to S9+30dB (wish we had a few more countries active down there)! Other stations from West Africa like 3X1SG, 6W1QC, 6W1QF, the many TU's, and the good old faithful TR8CA put in a daily appearance at fantastic strengths.

The Southwest path has also been very kind to me. PT7NK has been heard a number of times along with PYØFF. On odd occasions the path has managed the Caribbean with 9Y4VU, KP2A, and PJ4E. The North American circuit has been very poor. What few openings have happened I have missed, but there hasn't been anything new in that direction. The 23rd of February saw the biggest sidescatter/backscatter opening I've ever heard on 6M. Just about every station in Europe was on the band and gave everyone the opportunity of working stations too close for Es or too far for tropo. I myself picked up 3 new grid squares.

In Six News the article by myself "Somethings Missing" stated "we have openings on 50 MHz to the spot where a 28 MHz beacon is, but sometimes the beacon is not there." I had incorrectly worded this part of the article and will reply in a future edition of the Six News. I do understand the basic "ES" depth reflection at different frequencies!!"

## A F R I C A N      N E W S

**VQ9TB DIEGO GARCIA:** On March 6th I had a QSO on 10M with Tom VQ9TB. He stated that he has his 6M rig and amplifier, but was still waiting for his antenna to arrive from Joel KG6DX. He gave his QSL info as: P.O. Box 55, FPO San Francisco, California 96685

**CN8ST MOROCCO:** Hatsuo JA1VOK has informed me that he has shipped a Tokyo Hy-Power 100 watt amplifier to Tarik CN8ST by air on February 20th. The amplifier was donated by JA6LNJ and according to Hatsuo, was very, very expensive to ship to Africa, even for such a small package.

**FR/JG3KUT REUNION:** This item was received too late for the last issue. Hiroyuki Imoto JG3KUT will be operational from Reunion between March 10-17. His operating site is at 2000 meters ASL on a mountain with 200 watts output and a 5 element yagi.

**QSL INFO:** Kenzo Nose JA3EGE, 2-5, 2-1001, Mikuni, Toyonaka, Osaka 561, Japan

**TOGO (5V7) UPDATE:** On March 6th I spoke with 5V7SA on 15M (Steve) and his QSL Manager WB4LFM (Paul). In the very near future a group of hams will be travelling to Togo and there is a very good possibility that they will be able to take 6M to Steve. Paul is to get back with me any day now with shipping instructions. The equipment which will be given to 5V7SA consists of an SB-110, power supply, desk mic, and coax. Dan WB2CUS was kind enough to donate the rig and supply and I have donated the matching desk mic and a new roll of coax. I am in the process of trying to locate an antenna for Steve.

In other developments, I have received word that F2JD will be operational from Togo between March and November. Gerard is reported to be taking his IC726 and a package of satellite equipment which is being put together by John KL7GRF in Southern California. Maybe somebody can get a decent 6M beam to be included in the package.

**ZAMBIA (9J2) UPDATE:** The following info was passed along to Ted G4UPS by John 9H5EE during a February 8th telephone conversation: Peter 9J2HN, who is presently very active on the HF bands, will be going home to Japan on holiday in April and will be returning to Zambia with a 6M rig and antenna. His home callsign is JK1UWY and he will be QRV on 6M sometime in May using an IC505 to a 6 element yagi.

# A F R I C A N      N E W S

7Q7JA MALAWI: Hatsuo JA1VOK reports that 7Q7JA's license is valid until May 7, 1991.

TL8MB CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Eric TL8MB surprised everyone with his sudden appearance on the 6M band in February. He will be in TL8 for the next 4 months and many may remember him from his activity as FY5/FD1JKK. He has mentioned that QSL cards will be answered after he has arrived back home and has cards printed. Grid square is reported as JJ94.

6W1OC SENEGAL: Keo expects to return to Japan on March 28th. His operation has been quite successful; he made it as far west as Washington State on February 2nd. VK4BRG and others have been getting their 0000-0300Z long path to West Africa many times already this season, and Ron commented that he thinks Keo sleeps by his radio because he seems ever-ready, even well past local midnight!

ASCENSION ISLAND (ZD8) ACTIVITY: N6CW says that N6TJ is not on Ascension, but using the rig in his place are ZD8GT and ZD8DX. QSL's for David (ZD8DX) are reported to go via his manager WB2K. ZD8LII was also reported to be fairly active during February.

## IVORY COAST (TU) QSL INFORMATION:

TU2EW: Daniel Blau, P.O. Box 1890, Abidjan 11, Ivory Coast

TU2MA: Toure Vacaba, P.O. Box 520, Abidjan 01, Ivory Coast

TU2OJ: Gerard Piejougeat, P.O. Box 342, Gagnoa, Ivory Coast NOTE: This is a new P.O. Box (Box 634 is no good)

TU4DH: Jean Claude Richard, P.O. Box 584, Bouake, Ivory Coast

9J2KF ZAMBIA: The following item comes from Ted Collins G4UPS:

"I have been sent the QSL information for 9J2KF with the obvious indication that he is active on 6M."

QSL INFO: Kiyoshi Fujita, 1-11-10-404, Tsukamoto, Yodogawa-Ku, Osaka City 532, Japan

# N E W S      F R O M      O C E A N I A

T31KY CENTRAL KIRIBATI: Kiyoko apparently made no contacts on 6M during her stay. This underscores the importance of running a beacon (even if QRP) on DXpeditions to places that lack suitable indicators. Kiyoko is now reportedly back in Japan, undoubtedly shocked by the waiting truckload of QSL requests after a year of island-hopping. She expects to embark on further travels starting in September. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

ZK3 OPERATION CANCELLED: Hatsuo JA1VOK reports that JA1OEM's ZK3 trip was cancelled due to a 2 week postponement of the ship that was to depart 5W for the trip to ZK3. JA1OEM was not able to accept this delay due to commitments at his work QTH. Tokelau (ZK3) is wanted by many JA's as the ZK3KM operation last year netted only 18 JA QSO's.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND (VK9X) OPERATION PLANNED: This is a reminder that JAØGPT and JHØMHE will operate from VK9X between April 2-9. Their equipment will be a Yaesu FT655 and 6 element HB9VC beam.

QSL INFO: Kazunori Uematsu JAØGPT, P.O. Box 20, Nozawa, Saku-City, Nagano 384-01, Japan

FRENCH POLYNESIA BEACON SITUATION: FO5DR/B continues to operate on a limited schedule. On February 20th, it was on at night (for the first time?) and was bending S-meters in Hawaii for 3 hours via fluttery TEP on a measured zero-beat frequency of 50.050.1 MHz. N6AMG expects to stop over in Tahiti for a couple of days enroute to Rarotonga in late March, and will see if FO5DR/B can be filtered or relocated to eliminate the TVI problem. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

ZK1 SOUTH COOKS: Joel Paladino N6AMG is proceeding with his plans to activate Rarotonga for about a week and a half starting around the end of March. In addition to his own operating, he will be carrying replacement parts for ZK1CG's FT-620B.

V73AT MARSHALLS: Tim V73AT has begun to crack the short path into Europe. On February 19th at 1057Z he worked LA9ZV, and on February 25th at 0955Z he worked IØLDP. As of early March, he (like KG6UH/DU1), has yet to make his first contiguous U.S. contact.

## PHILIPPINES QSL INFORMATION:

KE9A/DU3: Via Robert Johnson WB9YXY, Route 1, Box 173, Endeavor, Wisconsin 53930

KEASC/DU3: Ken Keehner, NSD Box 33, Code 700, FPO San Francisco, California 96651

KJ6WD/DU3: Gordon Gardner, Box 42, FPO San Francisco, California 96651

# A S I A N      N E W S

4X1IF ISRAEL: The following item comes from Ted Collins G4UPS:

"Ralph 4X1IF received permission to operate on the 6M band on February 5th at 1700Z. The band will be available only to the Extra Class with power limited to 25 watts output. The frequency spectrum allowed is 50.100 to 50.150 MHz. Within an hour of receiving his permission, Ralph had his first QSO on 6M with Jack ZS6LN at 1747Z. Ralph has persisted with his interest in 6M by working many of us crossband over the years and we are delighted that at long last he is now able to operate and work two-way on the band. Ralph hopes to have a beacon running very soon on 50.145 MHz. His first G opening occurred at 0900Z on February 15th when he worked GI8YDZ."

QSL INFO: Ralph Rosenbaum, 17 Shalom Street, Ra'anana, 43561 Israel

UL7GCC KAZAKH SSR: Mike UL7GCC located in Alma Ata worked G4JCC for his first 6M crossband QSO on January 22, 1991 at 1028Z. Mike has a 5 element yagi on 6M and has been listening only on 50.140 MHz.

PROPAGATION REPORT FROM SHEL REMINGTON NI6E/KH6

One of the spectacular hemisphere-wide openings that I alluded to at the end of my "Fluxcult" article took place on Saturday, February 23rd, primarily from 2330 until 0130Z (on the 24th UTC). During that 2-hour period, the following paths all opened nearly simultaneously with various link-ups of Es, F2, and TEP:

- \*VK5BC/VK2ZXC/VK4BRG into VA-SC-GA-FL-AL-TN-OK-TX-NM-AZ-CA...
- \*VK4's also had their disgustingly regular long-path over North America into 9L1US/6W1QC starting at 0025Z...
- \*ZL1's into CA-AZ blending into a major ZL-JA opening at 0020Z...
- \*KH4AE showed up at 0000Z, and worked into the Tokyo area...
- \*The JA's antipodal paths into PY5 and CE3 opened wide beginning at 2340Z...
- \*V73AT copied K6STI and K6QXY on forward scatter around 2130Z, with neither end audible here at the midpoint of what should be a 2-hop path...
- \*At 0045Z the JA's also had V73AT...
- \*LU7DZ and KB6SL/CE3 got into Kansas-Oklahoma on Es-to-TEP link-ups at 0045Z, 0205Z, and 0305Z, followed by 2 hours of WD7Z/B reception by Kevin starting at 0300Z with no takers except XE1GRR on FM...
- \*Interestingly, no ionospheric propagation whatsoever existed in Hawaii above 45 MHz during the above 2-hour period, although I was hearing round-the-world echoes on 28 MHz JA signals. Earlier, we did have the usual F2 to Kevin in Santiago around 2100Z and then from 0430Z past 1100Z some good TEP on the usual paths into CE3, ZL, 3D2, and V73...
- \*The 2800 MHz flux for the 23rd, at 306, was not materially different from the two preceding or two following dates, which ranged between 302 and 311. The fact that widespread 50 MHz openings did not occur on those other four dates can be added to the growing stack of evidence that the daily WWV flux number doesn't correlate to that day's propagation. Nor was there a major flare. However, there was a small but important geomagnetic disturbance that day, attributed to the meridional crossing of a coronal hole.
- \*The vigilant WA5IYX was watching the MUF of sporadic-E clouds during the above event, and noted 100 MHz open into the D.C. area, and 70 MHz into Ohio. There was also Es in the Western U.S., and some between ZL and VK during the same period. A bit of confusion ensued when TV audio around 50.75 was copied in the west, some of which was the real (ZL) thing, and some of which was due to spurs from a Mexican TV transmitter.
- \*Putting the above clues together, it appears that the enhanced F2 can be chalked up to the combination of the generally elevated level of solar UV in early 1991 and the brief magnetic response to the solar-wind particles spewed our way out of a well-positioned coronal hole. What made the F2 and TE propagation especially useful was the presence of widespread off-season Es at one or both ends of many paths.

The above is illustrative of the overview one can get, mostly in real-time, by participating in the Global Six-Meter Watch on 28.885 MHz during a hot opening. I get the impression that a fair number of 6M ops both in and out of the U.S. are unaware of how well things are going on the liaison frequency. I would go as far to say that one can double his/her new countries worked in a given period by joining in the festivities on 28.885 MHz.

Unless they live in Hawaii, that is, in which case they'll get about one new country per 1000 hours of ionospheric propagation. Am I frustrated? Yes, two new countries in the past nine months, and I'm hitting it hard, every day! One neat 46,000 miles-per-watt reception happened a few nights ago: a late-night TEP (non-equator-crossing but we still call it TEP at the moment) opening on February 27th made the JA6YBR beacon audible here at its lowest power-stepping level, which I believe is 100 milliwatts into a Hentenna, around 0950Z (midnight in Hawaii). The path, spanning 4600 miles, was entirely in darkness. The footprint was large, extending out to Hong Kong, Okinawa, and Kwajalein....definitely not Es, hi!

L A T E - B R E A K I N G      6 M      N E W S

The following 6M news was received just prior to the March 15th publication deadline and could not be included in the main body of the BULLETIN:

**FRENCH POLYNESIA OPERATION PLANNED BY N6AMG:** The DX Bulletin which is published by Chod Harris VP2ML reports that Joel Paladino N6AMG will be operational on 6M between March 22-24 as FOOSIX. He will then proceed to the South Cook Islands where he will operate from ZK1CG's QTH (Callsign unknown). QSL is via AE6H.

**PARAGUAY (ZP) UPDATE:** ZP5ZR has begun working 6M DX. Around 0400 on March 10th, he was heard in Hawaii while running a JA pile-up on the Calling Frequency. Doug ZP6XDW says that ZP5RKV is also ready to go on 6M. ZP6XDW has really been cleaning up, working 17 new countries on March 9th and 10th (mostly Northern Europeans but also some VS6's at 1530Z on the 10th). Doug heard Southern Africa (the V51E beacon) between 2145Z and 2205Z on those two dates but could not raise anyone. The LU/ZP/CX path to V51/ZS/A22 is extremely difficult despite the short distance, apparently due to the South Pacific Geomagnetic Anomaly. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

**ZP5AA BEACON SITUATION:** Doug ZP6XDW and friends got the beacon on the air on March 5th; it was copied by NI6E/KH6 within 24 hours, and later in Northern Europe. At the moment, it is operating from a temporary QTH with a dipole, but will soon be moved to a permanent repeater site (where Doug can get to it readily) and the antenna will be a new Argentine-made vertical. Frequency measured by NI6E/KH6 is 50.025.3 MHz. The YV4AB beacon is also reported to have moved to about 50.025 MHz (no coordination!); hopefully they're at least a few hundred hertz apart. We can all thank Pat Burn N4LTA for donating this beacon equipment!

**ZL9TPY AUCKLAND ISLAND:** Kerry ZL2TPY (ZL9TPY) did not work anyone outside of New Zealand...this major disappointment was evidently caused by a flurry of major flares during his entire stay which wiped out high-latitude propagation. Around 0300Z on March 6th, Kerry did hear some JA signals, but was unable to work them due to QRM from the kilowatt 10M operations of ZL9DX. Similarly, at 2122Z on March 6th, he heard W6's for about 10 seconds (there was a ZL1-2-3 opening in progress to W5-6-7 at that time).

**KH4AF MIDWAY:** Cliff has been showing up every few days on 6M and once on 28.885 MHz. He's an experienced 6M man, having operated as KX6QC in Cycle 21, and is adept with CW. His rig is a barefoot IC726 feeding a 5 element yagi. He gives his QSL info as: P.O. Box 43, FPO San Francisco, California 96614. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

**VP8CEX / VP8CEN FALKLANDS:** Steve VP8CEX and John VP8CEN continue to be reasonably active on 28.885 MHz and on 6M. They share a station which consists of an FT290, homebrew 25 watt transverter, and homebrew 3 element yagi. Their QSL address is: Box 260 MPA, Port Stanley, Falkland Islands. Their hours of operation are usually about 1600Z until 0300Z. (Tnx NI6E/KH6)

**ZB2VHF BEACON UPDATE:** ZB2BU was overheard saying on 28.885 MHz that the Gibraltar beacon is silent and will remain so for the indefinite future, as it causes receiver problems when they're chasing DX.

**4K2FJL FRANZ JOSEF LAND:** Following up on last year's "North Pole 90" DXpedition, another group will be going to grid MR21 (or nearby) and will bring 6M gear. Jim KA7ARJ (okay in the 91 Callbook or FAX 206-524-7826) says they expect to begin operations on about 10 or 11 April until about 24 April. Various operators may have their own personal callsigns. This location is some 800 km west of Srdniy Island (where UA0/GB4MSS operated last year), so it should have an even better shot into Europe. Jim says this DXpedition is just a practice trip for a 4-month Antarctic trip starting in November which will go to 3-5 different bases.

**VK9YJ COCOS ISLAND:** Cocos Island will be operational by VK3AWY with an IC575H and a 9 element beam for one week beginning March 26th. QSL is via VK3AWY. (Tnx JA1VOK)

**PY0FF QSL SITUATION:** An appeal from Andre PY0FF....PLEASE DO NOT SEND DOLLAR BILLS WITH QSL CARDS for the repayment of return postage. Please send two (2) IRC's for the return postage of a QSL card!!!

**LU7DZ QSL INFO:** Eduardo LU7DZ has recently moved to a new home and his present address is as follows: Eduardo van Boteghem, L.M. Drago 2524, Villa Adelina, Buenos Aires 1607, Argentina.

**VP9HE BERMUDA:** Ed Kucharski WB2DNE sends along the following news item:  
"I would like to report to you that N3II (a neighbor active on HF) has informed me that his friend Al VP9HE, has recently acquired 6M equipment and should now be active on 50 MHz. From what I understand, Al is not very familiar with 6M operation but is aware of the 28.885 liaison frequency."

**THE 50 MHz DX BULLETIN**

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TO: